



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)


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[Officers](#)
[Newsletter](#)
[E. Iowa DX Bulletin](#)
[Buy-Sell-Trade](#)
[DXCC Card Checking](#)
[About EIDX](#)
[History](#)
[Constitution & Bylaws](#)
[DX Resources](#)

The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 257, January 17, 2025

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Ohio-Penn DX Bulletin (OPDX)

Edited by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW. Although OPDX is no longer published as a weekly bulletin, Tedd still sends DX news emails.

We will occasionally publish some of them.

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

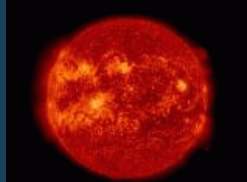
Dr. Tony Phillips' SpaceWeather.com, used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

18 Jan 2025 1807 GMT
 SFI: 227 SN: 128
 A-Index: 21
 K-Index: 2
 X-Ray: C1.6
 304A: 166.7 @ SEM
 Ptn Flx: 9
 Elc Flx: 3550
 Aurora: 2/n=1.99
 Mag (Bz): -1.5
 Solar Wind: 495.5
 Geomag Field QUIET
 Sig Noise Lvl S1-S2
 Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>
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DX News

3X, GUINEA. Jean-Philippe, F1TMY (ex-J28PJ), will be back on the air as **3X1A** until mid-2026 from Conakry on 80-6m and via QO-100. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[DXNL # 2439 January 1, 2025] (0103-0124)

5Z, KENYA. Scott, WA5A is QRV as **5Z4/WA5A** from Ruaka. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using mostly SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via [WA5A](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 9, 2025] (0110-0131)

7P, LESOTHO. Mark, KW4XJ, and his daughter Arina, KO4PZT (13 years old), are active **until mid-2025** as **7P8AB** and **7P8NB**. QSL via [KW4XJ](#).

-[DXNL # 2439 January 1, 2025] (0103-0207)

8R, GUYANA. Aldir, PY1SAD will be active again as **8R1TM** from Georgetown, Guyana from **January 1st to February 8th**. He will operate CW, SSB and digital modes on all bands and via satellite. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, QRZ Logbook, or direct via [PY1SAD](#).

-[425DXN # 1755 December 21, 2024] (1227-0207)

9A, CROATIA. Throughout 2025 Tom, 9A2AA will use **9A68AA** to mark his 68 years of activity on the amateur radio bands. QSL via [9A2AA](#).

-[425DXN # 1759 January 18, 2025] (0117-0207)

9V, SINGAPORE. Olafur, TF1OL is QRV as **9V1OL** **until January 20th**. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using some SSB, with FT8, and FT4. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0124)

C5, THE GAMBIA. Przemo, SP3PS is QRV as **C5SP** **until mid-March**. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL to [SP3PS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0314)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Denney, VU2DGR is QRV with special callsign **AT44I** from the Bharati Research Station at Larsemann Hills to commemorate the 44th Indian Scientific Expedition to the southern continent. QSL to [VU2DGR](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0207)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Felix, DL5XL will be QRV as **DP1POL** from the German research station Neumayer III, IOTA AN-016, from **January 12th to February 25th**. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using mostly CW with some SSB and various digital modes. QSL via [DL1ZBO](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 9, 2025] (0110-0228)

CN, MOROCCO. Ralf, DB4REB will be active as **CN2REB** while vacationing in Morocco from **November 30th to January 30, 2025**. He plans to operate CW, FT8 and SSB on various bands from Agadir and some POTA sites along the coast. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/CN2REB> for updates. QSL via eQSL, or [DB4REB](#).

-[425DXN # 1751 November 23, 2024] (1129-0131)

CT3, MADEIRA I. A team consisting of Csaba/[HA2KMR](#), Feri/[HA2KE](#), Zoli/[HA4FF](#), and Joe/[OE6JOZ](#) (HA2EAV) is currently active from Madeira (AF-014), signing **CT9/homecalls** **until January 22nd**. During the HA DX Contest (January 18th-19th) they will use the callsign **CR3HA**. QSL for CR3HA via HA bureau, eQSL; others via homecalls.

-[DXNL # 2441 January 15, 2025] (0117-0124)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of January 17, 2025:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. KH4	Midway Island
3. CE0X	San Felix Islands	13. VK0M	Macquarie Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. PY0S	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. KP5	Desecheo Island
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. VP0S	South Sandwich Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
8. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	18. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands
9. YV0	Aves Island	19. VK0H	Heard Island
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. FT/T	Tromelin Island

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[K0CF January 17, 2025] (0117-0207)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DL2025C** celebrates Chemnitz as one of the European Capitals of Culture 2025 from **January 18th until March 31st**. In addition, **DL2025B**, **DL2025E**, **DL2025W**, and **DL2025S** will also be active, marking previous German cities similarly honored (Berlin, Essen, Weimar) and the DARC district Saxony, where Chemnitz is located. An award program is also

available; see <https://www.2025c.de>. QSL only in various digital forms.

-[DXNL # 2441 January 15, 2025] (0117-0328)

DL, GERMANY. Radio amateurs in Kamenz (DOK S22) celebrate their city's 800th anniversary with the callsign **DM800KM** (special DOK 800KM) **throughout 2025**. QSLs will be sent automatically via the bureau; logs are uploaded to ClubLog and qrz.com.

-[DXNL # 2439 January 1, 2025] (0103-0124)

DL, GERMANY. The Deutsches Museum in Munich, one of the largest science and technology museums in the world (<https://www.deutsches-museum.de>), celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2025. **DL100DM** is the special callsign to be used **throughout the year** by the amateur radio station which is part of and regularly active from the museum's "Electronics" permanent exhibition. QSL via [DL8FA](https://www.clublog.org).

-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (0103-0124)

FG, GUADELOUPE. Jeff, VA3QSL will be active holiday style as **FG/VA3QSL** from Guadeloupe (NA-102) on **January 9th-26th**. He will operate SSB, CW and digital modes on 40-6 meters. QSLs via LoTW, or [VA3QSL](https://www.clublog.org).

-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (0103-0124)

FM, MARTINIQUE. Dom, F4IFF will be active as **FM/F4IFF** from Martinique (NA-107) on **January 19th to 27th**. He will operate SSB and digital modes on the HF bands, and will use ClubLog's Live Stream. QSL direct to [EB7DX](https://www.clublog.org).

-[425DXN # 1759 January 18, 2025] (0117-0131)

FO/M, MARQUESAS IS. A large multi-national team will be active as **TX7N** from Hiva Oa, Marquesas Islands (OC-027) on **January 12th-27th**. They will operate CW, SSB and digital modes on 160-6 meters with five stations. In addition to TX7N, other three special callsigns will be used: **TX7MAS** to be used for EME and satellite; **TX7WW** to be used during the CQ WW 160-Meter CW Contest (**January 24th-26th**); **TX100REF** in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Reseau des Emetteurs Francais, to be used during the French HF Championship CW (**January 26th-27th**). See <https://tx7n.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/TX7N25> for more information and updates. QSL exclusively via [ClubLog's](https://www.clublog.org) [OQRS](https://www.clublog.org) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (0110-0131)

G, ENGLAND. Special callsign **GB7ØRS** is celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Radio Society of Great Britain's weekly news service (GB2RS), which has been running continuously since September 25, 1955 (<https://rsgb.org/main/gb2rs/>). GB7ØRS is operated by the radio amateurs who work to deliver GB2RS each week, both the editorial staff at RSGB HQ and the newsreaders spread around the UK and Crown Dependencies who transmit it every Sunday. QSL via the bureau, LoTW and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1758 January 11, 2025] (0110-0131)

GM, SCOTLAND. Terry, GM3WUX will be QRV as **GB2ØØLB** from **January 4th to 31st** to celebrate the bicentenary of the invention of the Braille code. Activity is on the HF bands using mainly CW. QSL via [MØOXO's](https://www.clublog.org) [OQRS](https://www.clublog.org).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 1 January 2, 2025] (0103-0131)

GW, WALES. Kev, GWØPUH will be active as **GB9KW** on **January 1st-28th** using vintage equipment manufactured by KW Electronics Ltd during the 1960s and 1970s. Main activity will be over the "KW Weekend" (**January 4th-5th**). Other special callsigns are expected to be on the air, notably **GB2KW** from Scotland, **GB5KWD** and **GB6KW** from England, and possibly others. QSL via operator's instructions.

-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (1227-0131)

HB, SWITZERLAND. Special callsign **HB2ØSOTA** celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Swiss SOTA Group (HB9SOTA) **throughout 2025**. A certificate will be available, see <https://hb9sota.ch/en/> for more information.

-[425DXN # 1758 January 11, 2025] (0110-0131)

HC, ECUADOR. Rick, NE8Z/HC1MD/SP9E, is back on the air as **HC1MD/2** **until January 18th**. QRV on 160-6m (CW, SSB, FT4/8), mostly on WARC bands. QSL via [K8LJG](https://www.clublog.org), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2441 January 15, 2025] (0117-0124)

HI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Special event callsign **HI59UD** is active **until January 25th** to celebrate the 59th anniversary of the Union Dominicana de Radioaficionados, the second oldest amateur radio club in the Dominican Republic. Activity is on the HF bands using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0124)

HR, HONDURAS. Dave, VE3VSM will be QRV as **VE3VSM/HR9**, from Roatan Island (NA-057) from **January 6th to 25th**. Activity will be on 30 and 20 meters using CW and FT8. QSL to [K6VHF](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 1 January 2, 2025] (0103-0124)

I, ITALY. Team **IG9/S51V** will participate in the CQ WW 160-Meter CW Contest (January 24th-25th) as a Multi-Single entry from Lampedusa Island (AF-019). Outside the contest from **January 19th-29th**, look for team members S51V, S52OT, S52P, S54W, S56DX, S57UN, S58MU, S59A, S59ZZ, IV3CTS and YT3H to be QRV as **IG9/home call** on the HF bands. QSL via home calls.

-[425DXN # 1758 January 11, 2025] (0117-0131)

I, ITALY. Throughout 2025 ARI Fidenza will use a series of special callsigns, each representing one of the many patents registered by Guglielmo Marconi between 1897 and 1926: **II4FPEN** (January), **II4FPUS** (February), **II4SHLD** (March), **II4GHPR** (April), **II4JGGR** (May), **II4RXOS** (June), **II4COHR** (July), **II4LDMA** (August), **II4RADS** (September), **II4WLTX** (October), **II4EACC** (November) and **II4TJTB** (December). Information about the "Marconi - Patented By" award: <http://www.arifidenza.it/>. QSL via [IQ4FE](#) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0103-0207)

JD1/M, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, **JG8NQJ/JD1** is currently QRV from Minami Torishima **until March 1st**. His QSL manager reports that at the end of January Take will QRT on 10 meters and be active on 12 meters instead. Also, sometime in late January to early February he will be able to be QRV on 20 meters. Take operates mainly CW in his spare time. QSL via the bureau to JG8NQJ, or direct to [JA8CJY](#).

-[425DXN # 1759 January 18, 2025] (0117-0207)

K, UNITED STATES. The Straight Key Century Club's annual on-air event, commemorating the club's founding in 2006 and celebrating the original instruments of early radiotelegraphy (straight key, bug and cootie keys), will run on **January 2nd-31st**. Look for **K3Y** to be aired from the ten US call areas (**K3Y/Ø** through **K3Y/9**), plus **/KH6**, **/KL7** and **/KP4**. Information on the event and QSL instructions can be found on <https://skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y.php>.

-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (1227-0131)

LA, NORWAY. Special callsign **LA1ØØA** is the for NRRL's Midt-Troms Gruppen (LA6M, <https://www.la6m.no/>) to use **throughout 2025** to mark the 100th anniversary of the first amateur radio two-way contact between Norway and the US, made by Johannes Diesen, LA1A from Moen in Malselv municipality and UIYB at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire (November 25, 1925). QSL via the bureau, QRZ Logbook, or via [LA1ØØA](#).

-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (1227-0124)

LZ, BULGARIA. Radio Club Blagovestnik (LZ1KCP) will use six special callsigns during 2025 to honor as many different Orthodox saints: **LZ4Ø3ES** (January and February), **LZ372SG** (March and April), **LZ286MDK** (May and June), **LZ591MK** (July and August), **LZ117ME** (September and October) and **LZ3Ø6WW** (November and December). Details on the "All Saints 2025 Award" can be found at <https://www.lz1kcp.com/>. QSL via the bureau or direct to P.O. Box 36, 4300 Karlovo, Bulgaria.

-[425DXN # 1758 January 11, 2025] (0110-0131)

OH, FINLAND. Special callsign **OF6ØAP** celebrates the Central Uusimaa Radio Amateurs Association (OH2AP) 60th anniversary **throughout 2025**. A certificate will be available, see https://oh2ap.fi/?page_id=491. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1758 January 11, 2025] (0110-0131)

P4, ARUBA. Mathias, DL4MM is QRV as **P4ØAA** until January 28th. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ 160 Meter CW contest (January 24th-26th). QSL to [DL4MM](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0131)

PA, NETHERLANDS. Special event station **PA25MC** will be active on January 23rd to introduce the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps to the world of amateur radio. Organized and supported by PI4VBD, the club station of the Royal Army's Signal Regiment, activity will be on SSB on the HF bands.

-[425DXN # 1759 January 18, 2025] (0117-0124)

PA, NETHERLANDS. Special callsign **PC8ØTT** is the for members of VERON Leiden (PI4LDN) to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands during World War II (May 5, 1945). Look for activity from January 1st until June 1st. The special callsign honors the memory of Rudolf Tappenbeck (PCTT), a pioneer of Dutch amateur radio who died in Neuengamme concentration camp on December 21, 1944. QSL via the bureau to [PI4LDN](#).

-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (1227-0124)

PACIFIC TOUR. Reportedly, Gerhard, OE3GEA will be active holiday style from New Caledonia, Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa, American Samoa and Hawaii from December 20th to January 21st:

January 9th-12th	5WØGE	Apia (0C-097)
January 12th-15th	KH8/OE3GEA	Pago Pago (0C-045)
January 18th-21st	KH6/OE3GEA	Hawaii

He will operate CW on 30-10 meters. QSL via [OE3GEA](#).

-[425DXN # 1754 December 14, 2024] (1220-0124)

PJ2, CURACAO. PD1DRE will be active as **PJ2/PD1DRE** from January 14th to February 4th. He will operate SSB on 40, 20 and 10 meters. QSL via eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0110-0207)

PJ2, CURACAO. Thaire, W2APF will be active as **PJ2/W2APF** from January 12th to April 8th. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 80-10 meters. QSL via LoTW or [W2APF](#).

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0110-0404)

PJ4, BONAIRE. Masumi/JA3AVO, Nakasako/JA3UJR, Jusei/JA3IVU, Kunio/JA1CJA, Shozo/JA3HJI, and Hiroko/JH3PBL, of the JA3 DX Vacation Group, activate the PJ4G QTH from January 13th to 20th with the callsign **PJ4JA** on 160-6m using CW, SSB and digital modes; and via satellites. Some group members may use their US callsigns individually: JA3AVO as **PJ4/W7AVO**, JA1CJA as **PJ4/AE6XY**, JA3IVU as **PJ4/K1TAI**, JA3HJI as **PJ4/W3HJI**, and JH3PBL as **PJ4/W7PBL**. For more information see: <https://bccweb.bai.ne.jp/~asg99501/pj4ja.htm>. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or direct to [JA3AVO](#).

-[DXNL # 2440 January 8, 2025] (0110-0124)

TG, GUATEMALA. Dwight, VE7BV is QRV as **TG9BBV** until January 28th. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL to [VE7BV](#), LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0131)

TJ, CAMEROON. Thierry, TK1CX is QRV as **TJ/TK1CX** until the end of February. Activity is in his spare time on 20 to 10 meters using mostly FT8 and low power. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or [EA5ZD](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 47 December 19, 2024] (1220-0228)

TY, BENIN. Gerard, F5NVF is QRV as **TY5C** from Godomey until April 2nd. Activity is holiday style on 80 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL direct to [F5RAV](#), or via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 9, 2025] (0110-0404)

VP5, TURKS & CAICOS. Gerhard, OE3GEA will be QRV as **VP5/OE3GEA** from Providenciales Island (NA-002) from January 23rd to 26th. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via [OE3GEA](#), ClubLog, LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0131)

Z8, SOUTH SUDAN. Ken, K4ZW will be QRV as **Z81Z** from January 20th to 24th. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and some SSB. QSL to [K4ZW](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0124)

VU, INDIA. Members of the West Bengal Radio Club are QRV with special event callsign **AU2WBRC** until January 20th for the Ganaga Sagar Mela Festival. QSL via [VU2SB](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 1 January 2, 2025] (0103-0124)

YB, INDONESIA. Jozef, ON6HX is guest operating as **YB9/ON6HX** from Lombok Island (OC-150) until February 6th. QSL via [ON6HX](#), LoTW, and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1757 January 4, 2025] (0103-0207)

YB, INDONESIA. Indra, **YB8QT**, remains active from Siau Barat, Sangihe Island (OC-210) into 2025. QSL via [IK2DUW](#).

-[DXNL # 2439 January 1, 2025] (0103-0124)

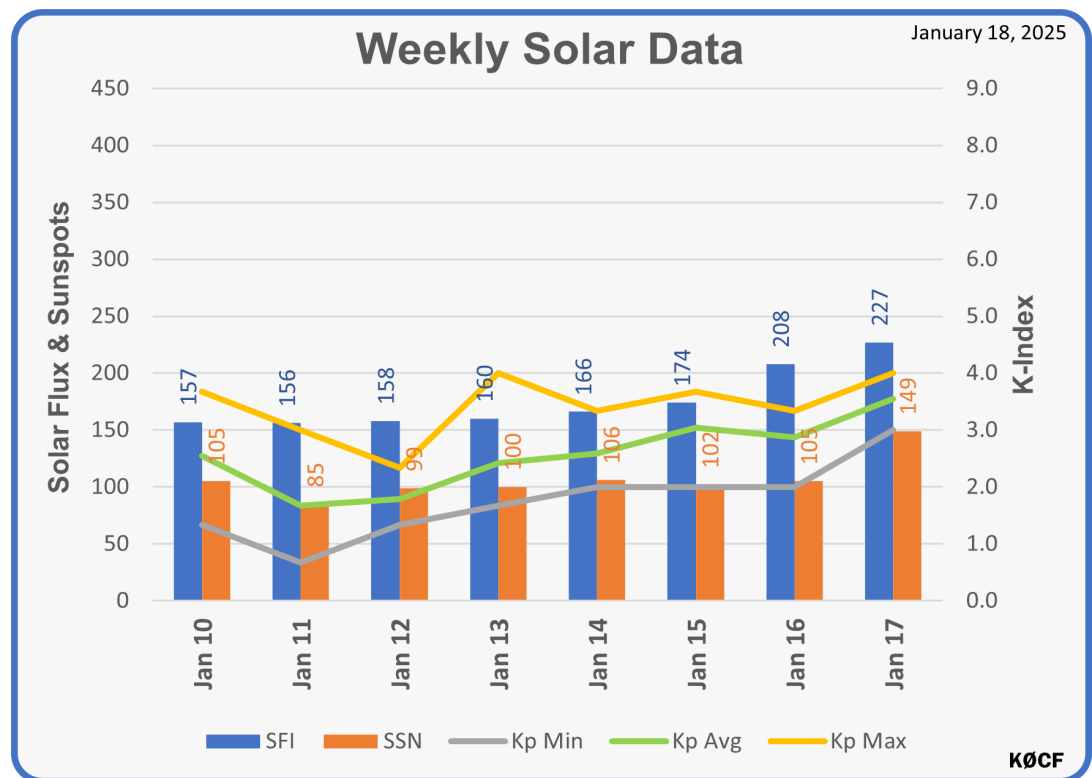
ZD7, ST. HELENA. Giovanni, IZ2DPX will be QRV as **ZD7DPX** from January 21st to February 3rd. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB and FT8. QSL via [IK2DUW](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 3 January 16, 2025] (0117-0207)

ZS, SOUTH AFRICA. On May 20, 2025, the South African Radio League will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The SARL Centenary Marathon QSO Party is set to kick off for a year-long operating event starting from 0000 UTC on January 1st and ending at 2359 UTC on December 31st. Throughout the year, the SARL, with the aid of its members and associated clubs, will be on the air with a special event callsign **ZS100SARL**, as well as the permanent callsigns **ZS6SRL** and **ZS9HQ**, and possibly other special event callsigns. A number of awards will be available, see <https://mysarl.org.za/centenary-marathon/> for more information.

-[425DXN # 1756 December 28, 2024] (1227-0124)

Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average

and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

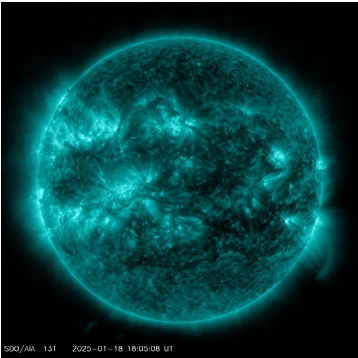
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, January 10th through yesterday, January 17th.

The average solar flux was 178, up 7 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 227 on Friday, January 17th, following a low of 156 on January 11th.

The average sunspot count was 107, down by 34 from last week, peaking at 149 on Friday, January 17th after a weekly low of 85 on January 11th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 3.4 with a maximum of 4.0 on Friday, January 17th, indicating generally quiet geomagnetic conditions.

Solar flare activity since January 11th has been high with 10 major flares, the largest of which was an M 7.4 event on Friday, January 17th.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Saturday, January 11th through 1413 UTC, January 18th.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Jan 18	0307	M 1.1
2	Jan 18	0058	M 1.7
3	Jan 17	2001	M 1.1
4	Jan 17	1949	M 1.8
5	Jan 17	1850	M 2.1
6	Jan 17	1335	M 7.4
7	Jan 17	1137	M 1.5
8	Jan 17	0919	M 2.0
9	Jan 17	0320	M 1.1
10	Jan 17	0211	M 1.3

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Jan 18	70%	30%	230
Jan 19	70%	30%	235
Jan 20	70%	30%	240

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on January 13, 2025).

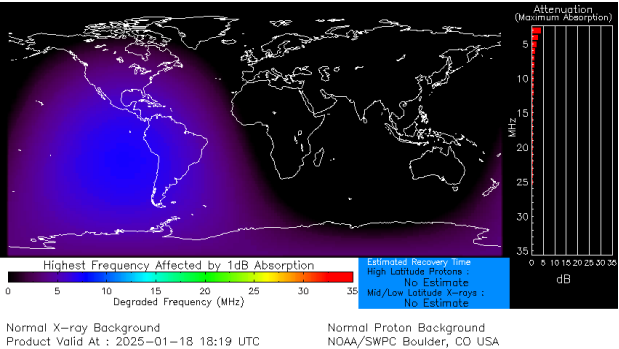
Date	Flux	Kp
Jan 18	155	3
Jan 19	155	3
Jan 20	160	3
Jan 21	160	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Jan 22	165	2
Jan 23	165	2
Jan 24	165	2
Jan 25	170	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Jan 26	170	2
Jan 27	175	2
Jan 28	175	2
Jan 29	170	2

Global D Region Absorption

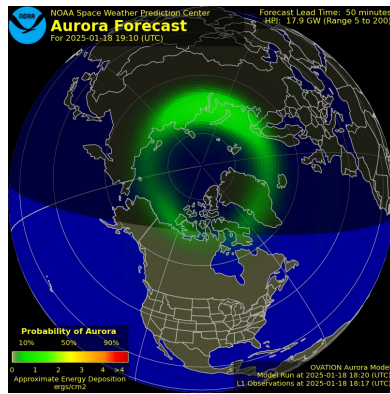
Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by “back-scatter” and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of

aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

This Could be a Flare-Y Weekend

Yesterday's [M7.4-class solar flare](#) could be the opening salvo of a flare-y weekend. Three sunspots (3959, 3961, 3964) facing Earth have unstable magnetic fields. NOAA forecasters estimate a 70% chance of [M-class](#) flares and a 30% chance of [X-flares](#) on Jan. 18th.

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Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
Hungarian DX Contest	Jan 18	1200Z	Jan 19	1200Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, SSB	Jan 18	1800Z	Jan 19	0600Z	Rules
ARRL January VHF Contest	Jan 18	1900Z	Jan 20	0359Z	Rules
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	Jan 24	2200Z	Jan 26	2159Z	Rules
BARTG RTTY Sprint	Jan 25	1200Z	Jan 26	1200Z	Rules
Winter Field Day	Jan 25	1700Z	Jan 26	1700Z	Rules
Vermont QSO Party	Feb 1	0000Z	Feb 2	2400Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	Feb 1	0001Z	Feb 2	2359Z	Rules
Mexico RTTY International Contest	Feb 1	1200Z	Feb 2	2359Z	Rules
Minnesota QSO Party	Feb 1	1400Z	Feb 1	2400Z	Rules
British Columbia QSO Party	Feb 1	1600Z	Feb 2	2400Z	Rules
North American Sprint, CW	Feb 2	0000Z	Feb 2	0359Z	Rules
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	Feb 8	0000Z	Feb 9	2400Z	Rules
ARRL School Club Roundup	Feb 10	1300Z	Feb 14	2359Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	Feb 15	0000Z	Feb 16	2400Z	Rules
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	Feb 21	2200Z	Feb 23	2159Z	Rules
South Carolina QSO Party	Feb 22	1500Z	Feb 23	0159Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, RTTY	Feb 22	1800Z	Feb 23	0600Z	Rules
North Carolina QSO Party	Feb 23	1500Z	Feb 24	0100Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	Mar 1	0000Z	Mar 2	2400Z	Rules

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	Mar 1	1800Z	Mar 2	1359Z	Rules
YB DX RTTY Contest	Mar 8	0000Z	Mar 8	2359Z	Rules
Oklahoma QSO Party	Mar 8	1400Z	Mar 9	2100Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Mar 8	1500Z	Mar 9	1500Z	Rules
Idaho QSO Party	Mar 8	1900Z	Mar 9	1900Z	Rules
North American Sprint, RTTY	Mar 9	0000Z	Mar 9	0359Z	Rules
Wisconsin QSO Party	Mar 9	1800Z	Mar 10	0100Z	Rules
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Mar 15	0200Z	Mar 17	0200Z	Rules
Russian DX Contest	Mar 15	1200Z	Mar 16	1200Z	Rules
Virginia QSO Party	Mar 15	1400Z	Mar 16	2400Z	Rules
North American SSB Sprint Contest	Mar 23	0000Z	Mar 23	0400Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	Mar 29	0000Z	Mar 30	2400Z	Rules
Louisiana QSO Party	Apr 5	1400Z	Apr 6	0200Z	Rules
SP DX Contest	Apr 5	1500Z	Apr 6	1500Z	Rules
JIDX CW Contest	Apr 12	0700Z	Apr 13	1300Z	Rules
New Mexico QSO Party	Apr 12	1400Z	Apr 13	0200Z	Rules
Georgia QSO Party	Apr 12	1800Z	Apr 13	2359Z	Rules
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	Apr 13	1800Z	Apr 13	2359Z	Rules
Holyland DX Contest	Apr 18	2100Z	Apr 19	2100Z	Rules
YU DX Contest	Apr 19	0700Z	Apr 20	0659Z	Rules
Michigan QSO Party	Apr 19	1600Z	Apr 20	0400Z	Rules
Ontario QSO Party	Apr 19	1800Z	Apr 20	1800Z	Rules
Quebec QSO Party	Apr 20	1200Z	Apr 20	2200Z	Rules

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)]